

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180323

USEEC FOR EC BRUSSELS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA

REF: A) STATE 178821, B) NICOSIA 1998

1. CYPRUS AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU TELEPHONED ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST AUGUST 1 TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM NICOSIA TO EFFECT THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS WERE MAKING PLANS AND SPECIFIC PREPARATIONS FOR RESETTLEMENT OF
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VAROSHA. DIMITRIOU WAS APPARENTLY REFERRING TO AUGUST 1 TURKISH CYPRIOT PRESS REPORTS (REFTEL B).

2. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE IN FACT MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR ACTUAL RESETTLEMENT OF VAROSHA. SUCH STEPS WOULD BE KIND OF UNILATERAL ACTIONS WHICH CANNOT HELP PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS

AND WHICH WOULD CAUSE US CONCERN.

3. BELGIAN EMBASSY INFORMED DEPARTMENT AUGUST 1 THAT BELGIUM, IN EC-9 PRESIDENCY CAPACITY, HAS SUGGESTED TO OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBER STATES THAT BELGIAN DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE IN NICOSIA SHOULD ON BEHALF EC-9 APPROACH CYPRUS FOREIGN MINISTRY: A) TO EXPLAIN THAT ECEVIT JULY 20 STATEMENT WAS NOT CONSIDERED BINDING ON NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT, AND B) TO SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IN GOC INTEREST TO

EXAGGERATE IMPORTANCE OF TURKISH STATEMENTS ON VAROSHA AND THAT FURTHER GREEK CYPRIOT PRESSURE TO FORCE OTHERS TAKE POSITIONS ON FAMAGUSTA WOULD SEEM TO RUN THE RISK OF MAKING DEMIREL'S GOVERNMENT TASK IN DEALING WITH CYPRUS QUESTION THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. FOREGOING APPARENTLY BASED ON BELGIAN AMBASSADOR ANKARA REPORTING ON HIS EARLIER CONVERSATION AT TURKISH MFA. BELGIAN EMBASSY OFFICER SAID THAT AS OF JULY 29 HE UNDERSTOOD SOME OF EC-9 HAD AGREED TO SUGGESTED APPROACH IN NICOSIA BUT HE DID NOT HAVE CONFIRMATION WHETHER AND IF SO WHEN APPROACH TO GOC WOULD BE MADE. CHRISTOPHER

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